

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-35 are pending in the present application, claim 36 having been cancelled herein. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The disclosure was objected to due to an informality on amended page 5. This has been corrected. Withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 7, 17 and 24 were objected to due to a number of stated informalities. The Examiner is thanked for his helpful suggestions for amending the claims, all of which have been adopted. Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Urano (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,898). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 10 recites a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area centered about a school as one of a plurality of types of school zones depending on type of the school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone.

Claim 10 defines an "area of school zone depending on type of the school". Thus, an area of a school zone of one type of the school (for example, elementary school) is made to be distinguished from that of a school zone of another type of the school (for example, high school). For example, the school zone set based on the circumference of the elementary school can be made smaller than that set based on the circumference of the high school. Accordingly, the school zone is set reasonably by taking into consideration of commuting distance or activity areas of children by setting it smaller for elementary schools and larger for middle schools. Such a feature is neither disclosed in Urano patent cited by the Examiner nor suggested therein.

The Examiner states that regarding claim 10, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means (Figs. 1B, 8, 12; Col. 25, lines 15-19) for setting a predetermined area centered about school zone (Col. 25, lines 34-62) as one of a plurality of school zones depending on type of the school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone. However, Urano does not describe changing the school area (in other words, the size of school zone) at all. Further, Urano does not take an element of "types of the school" into account in a concept of the "school zone".

Applicants note the description of column 25, lines 15-19 of Urano which states "For example, in a navigation system to be installed in a car, the values of the factors defining the display styles of the objects (i.e., intensity values) may be defined by a function using the positional coordinates in a two-dimensional space corresponding to the longitude and the latitude as variables." This description only explains a general or basic technique of the display styles (or method for displaying positions) using a coordinate. And, that description does not explain a method or process for setting a school zone but explains positioning of a movable body (a car).

Further, Applicants note the description of column 25, lines 34-62 of Urano, which states:

For example, such a time-basis visual appearance control is applicable to traffic regulations on the roads within a school zone such that the speed limitations are varied only on school days. In such a case, another dimension (the y-axis) corresponding to the images indication the time of the day, the day of the week, the day of the month and the month of the year (the axis vertical to the paper sheet) as well as the dimension corresponding to the positional coordinate x (the x-axis) is further provided for the data space shown in Fig. 8A. For example, as shown in Fig. 10, the speed limit road sign object may be displayed in the range where the positional coordinate x is from 1 to 4 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, while the speed limit road sign

object may be displayed in the range where the positional coordinate x is from 1 to 3 on Sundays. The function $p_c = f_c(x, y)$ shown in Fig. 10 defines a relationship among the display size (intensity value) p_c , the positional coordinate x and the time coordinate y .

In this way, the display of a regulation sign can be controlled more finely.

Furthermore, dimensions corresponding to the temperature, the humidity and the like may be additionally provided for the data space, though these factors are not usually displayed. In such a case, the area in which the "slippery when wet" sign object is displayed may be varied in accordance with the temperature and the humidity, or the display color depth of such a road sign object may be set to be deeper as the temperature becomes lower.

This description explains only one example of a school zone in which the speed limitations are varied (or changed) only on school days. And, the explanation following that description relates to a detailed example for achieving the change of the speed limitations in a navigation system. This section does not disclose the feature of "for setting a predetermined area centered about a school zone as one of a plurality of school zones depending on the type of school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone as asserted in the Office Action.

The Examiner states that regarding claim 11, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means (Figs. 1B, 8, 12; Col. 25, lines 15-19) for setting a

predetermined area (school zone, Col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of school zones depending on type of roads (Col. 25, lines 34-36), and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone. However, Urano does not describe changing the school area at all. Further, Urano does not take an element of "types of the road" into account in a concept of the "school zone". In column 25, lines 34-36 of Urano, only the feature of "a time-basis visual appearance control is applicable to traffic regulations on the roads within a school zone such that the speed limitations are varied only on school days" is explained, and the patent does not disclose, there or elsewhere, the feature of change of school zone and the usage of element of "types of road".

The Examiner states that regarding claim 12, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area (school zone, Col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of school zones depending on road density (Col. 25, lines 34-36; i.e. all roads in the school zone are considered, therefore road density) surrounding the school, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone (Col. 25, lines 15-62). However, Urano does not describe changing the school area at all. Further, Urano does

not take an element of "road density" into account in a concept of the "school zone". In column 25, lines 34-36 of Urano Patent, only the feature of "a time-basis visual appearance control is applicable to traffic regulations on the roads within a school zone such that the speed limitations are varied only on school days" is explained, and the patent does not disclose, there or elsewhere, the feature of change of school zone and the usage of element of "road density" nor the fact that "all roads in the school zone are considered".

The Examiner states that regarding claim 13, Urano discloses a travel direction device comprising a controlling means for setting a predetermined area (school zone, Col. 25, lines 34-62) centered about a school as one of a plurality of school zones depending on area division, and giving a warning of cautions for travel when a car drives the road in the set school zone (Col. 25, lines 15-62). However, Urano does not describe changing the school area at all. Further, Urano does not take an element of "area division" into account in a concept of the "school zone".

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-13 are patentable over the prior art of record. If these rejections are maintained, the Examiner is requested to more particularly explain his basis for the rejection with reference to specific elements in Urano.

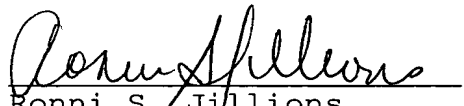
Appln. No. 10/078,271
Amdt. September 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 8, 2004

In view of the above amendments and remarks,
Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable,
and that the application is in condition for allowance. Early
notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions he is invited to
contact the undersigned at 202-628-5197.

Respectfully submitted,

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